

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

VOTING SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PROJECT REPORT

Los Angeles County is the largest voting jurisdiction in the nation and must meet the special needs of a diverse population while offering a voting system with integrity and accuracy that is easy for voters to use.

The interim Inka-Vote Plus optical scan voting system that replaced the decertified Votomatic punchcard, which served this County well from 1968-2003, along with the mainframe, in-house developed, DOS-based Microcomputer Tally System represent an aging technology with limited flexibility and knowledgeable staff able to make changes required for this County to be able to comply with recent and future laws and administrative regulations.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 and State Proposition 41 passed by voters acknowledged the need for counties like Los Angeles to modernize their voting systems and identified funds for this purpose. With all levels of government facing budget crises, it is apparent that Los Angeles County must provide due diligence in selecting a new voting system that meets the needs of its voters and pollworkers, while providing speedy election results for candidates, media, and the public across the nation. Every effort should be made to count each vote following the intent of the voter in a fair, impartial and transparent manner.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk has taken an important step to meet this challenge by forming a partnership with the Cal-Tech/MIT Voting Technology Project to provide research and compile data reflecting the values, needs and wishes of voters, pollworkers, and concerned citizens. The Voting Systems Assessment Project was launched on September 16, 2009 resulting in the attached Voting Systems Assessment Project Report dated July 9, 2010. It outlines the core values of survey participants in replacing the County's voting system that can provide guidance in the decision-making process.

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors to:

- 1) Receive and file the July 9, 2010 Voting Systems Assessment Project Report submitted by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk acknowledging its value as the foundation for the development and implementation of a new voting system for the County of Los Angeles; and
- 2) Direct the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and the Chief Executive Officer to assemble an advisory group of experts, stakeholders, and community leaders to analyze the findings of the report and establish a set of guiding principles and/or general requirements for a voting system; and
- 3) Direct the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to report to the Board in 60 days an incremental plan for moving forward with the modernization of the County's voting systems, including additional research needed, procurement/development strategy, and timeframe for selection/acquisition and implementation of the voting system.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Registrar-Recorder and the CEO keep the Board informed as to progress in modernizing its voting system with a target date for implementation, ideally in a year without a Presidential or Gubernatorial Primary. These written status reports will be due to the Board of Supervisors in 3-month increments and shall be posted on the RR/CC website for public review and feedback (<http://lavote.net/Voter/VSAP/>).

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